

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 10, 13, and 18-20 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-23 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 10, and 13 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to enable any person skilled in the art to which the present invention pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with the claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10 and 13 have been amended to clarify the claimed features as recited in claims 1-23. This amendment is made for the sole purpose of clarifying claims 1-23. This amendment is not made for the purpose of avoiding prior art or narrowing the claimed invention, and no change in claim scope is intended. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to relinquish any subject matter by these amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1, 4, 5, 10 and 13 in view of the specification enable any person skilled in the art to which the present invention pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with claims 1-23.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 1-23.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 10-20, 22, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 10 and 13 have been amended to clarify the claimed features as recited in claims 10-20, 22 and 23. Claims 18, 19, and 20 have been amended to depend from claim 17. This amendment is made for the sole purpose of clarifying claims 10-20, 22 and 23. This amendment is not made for the purpose of avoiding prior art or narrowing the claimed invention, and no change in claim scope is intended. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to relinquish any subject matter by these amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10 and 13, as amended, and all claims that depend therefrom, fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 10-20, 22 and 23.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,586,134 issued to Skoumpris, *et al.* ("Skoumpris"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) to be proper, a single reference must disclose every claimed feature. To be patentable, a claim need only recite a single novel feature that is not disclosed in the cited reference. Thus, the failure of a cited reference to disclose one or more claimed features renders the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection improper.

Claims 1-9

Claim 1, as amended, recites *inter alia*:

a pouch casing for housing the electrode assembly having an open portion and being formed of composite foil of a metallic material and a resin material;

a pouch cover formed of a metal material including at least one throughhole and at least an electrode pin fastened to the at least one throughhole, wherein the electrode pin is electrically connected to one of the first terminal portion and the second terminal portion and the pouch cover is coupled to and seals the open portion of the pouch casing; and

a first lead and a second lead exposed outside the pouch cover, wherein the first lead is electrically connected to the first terminal portion and the second lead is electrically connected to the second terminal portion

Applicants respectfully submit that Skoumpris fails to teach or suggest at least such features. Rather, Skoumpris discloses a lid 21 having first and second openings 62 and 63. “The first opening 62 is used for a *hermetically sealed battery terminal feed through 57, containing a glass-to-metal seal 54* whereas the second opening 63 is used for an electrolyte fill opening 64” (col. 3, lines 13-16, emphasis added). Furthermore, while terminal lead 20 extends outside the casing 22, “the excess lead 47 of the second end 49 [of anode lead 46] is trimmed by cutting or grinding and battery case 22 is sealed ...” (col. 4, lines 38-40; see Figure 2 and Figure 3). And the lead 46 “must be configured to be nested between the lid 21 and casing body 25.” (col. 4, lines 46-47). Therefore, Skoumpris fails to teach or suggest at least the electrode pin and the first and second leads as defined in claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Skoumpris fails to teach or suggest “a pouch casing for housing the electrode assembly having an open portion and being formed of composite foil of a metallic material and a resin material.” Rather, Skoumpris teaches a battery casing 22 including a body 25, where the “[c]asing 22 is of a conductive material preferably

selected from the group consisting of nickel, aluminum, stainless steel, mild steel and titanium.” (col. 2, lines 58-59 and 63-66; Figs. 1-6).

Accordingly, Skoumbris fails to teach each and every claimed feature of the present invention as disclosed in claim 1. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, and therefore are patentable for at least this reason.

Claims 10-12

Claim 10, as amended, recites *inter alia*:

a pouch casing for housing the electrode assembly having an open portion and being formed of composite foil of a metallic material and a resin material;

a pouch cover formed of an insulating reinforced foil is coupled to and seals the open portion of the pouch casing, wherein the pouch cover comprises a first throughhole and a second throughhole at locations substantially corresponding to the first terminal portion and the second terminal portion, respectively, and a first electrode pin and a second electrode pin fastened to the first throughhole and the second throughhole, respectively,

wherein the first terminal portion of the electrode assembly is electrically connected to an inner face of the first electrode pin and the second terminal portion of the electrode assembly is electrically connected to an inner face of the second electrode pin

For reasons similar to those noted above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Skoumbris fails to teach or suggest at least such features.

Accordingly, Skoumbris fails to teach each and every claimed feature of the present invention as disclosed in claim 10. Claims 11-12 depend from claim 10, and therefore are patentable for at least this reason.

Claims 13-23

Claim 13, as amended, recites *inter alia*:

a casing for housing the electrode assembly having an open portion and being formed of composite foil of a metallic material and a resin material;

a cover including at least one throughhole, wherein the cover is fastened to the open portion;

an electrode pin fastened to the at least one throughhole, wherein the electrode pin is electrically connected to one of the first terminal portion and the second terminal portion; and

a first lead and a second lead exposed outside the cover, wherein the first lead is electrically connected to the first terminal portion and the second lead is electrically connected to the second terminal portion

For reasons similar to those noted above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Skoumpris fails to teach or suggest at least such features.

Accordingly, Skoumpris fails to teach each and every claimed feature of the present invention as disclosed in claim 13. Claims 14-23 depend from claim 13, and therefore are patentable for at least this reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-23. Since none of the other prior art of record discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10 and 13, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Other Matters

In addition to the amendments mentioned above, claim 3 has been amended solely for the purposes of informality correction, better wording and clarification. This amendment is not made for the purpose of avoiding prior art or narrowing the claimed invention, and no change in claim scope is intended. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to relinquish any subject matter by this amendment.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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